

The two grand towers of New York City, the symbol of our Nation's strength here in Washington, DC, a field in Southern Pennsylvania, and America itself was struck a mighty blow two years ago, but on that day, the enduring spirit of the United States of America overcame evil with the human goodness and love of their fellow man and woman.

In the aftermath of the attacks, Americans across our great land, including my home State of West Virginia, volunteered their services. Policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, steelworkers, construction crews, plumbers, electricians, engineers, including members IOUE's National Hazardous Materials Program based in Beaver, West Virginia. Don Carson, the program's director, and a team of workers from the Beaver facility were among the first out-of-state workers to arrive at Ground Zero immediately after the September 11th terrorist attacks. They and many more giving individuals put their lives on hold to help in the search for the lives of others and to assist in the immense job of rebuilding New York, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and the rest of America.

But, there was one thing they did not have to rebuild and that was America's resolve. Never had its presence been stronger. We suffered the worst attack on our own soil against civilians that this country has ever experienced, and though the number of lives lost was devastating, the world witnessed America's resolve on that fateful day.

Patrick Henry told us in the beginnings of what would be the most powerful Nation in the world, "United we stand. Divided we fall." Americans from all creeds, all religions, all backgrounds, from north to south, east to west, united behind each other that Tuesday morning and for the days that followed, proving Patrick Henry's words true. Though the World Trade Center towers eventually collapsed under great stress from heat and pressure, for the last two years America never waffled.

I am proud to be an American today, and I am proud to say that many my fellow West Virginians have given of themselves so much to those who suffered two years ago and who still feel the pain of loss. We have stood together in the face of great, unspeakable tragedy and we will continue to stand together in the face of triumph.

May God bless this great Nation, and give us the strength to serve his will.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield to the majority

to inquire about the schedule for next week. I am pleased to yield to my friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Georgia for yielding to me. I would be happy to talk about the schedule for next week.

The House has completed its work for this week. Our business is over. All members and staff are invited to attend a remembrance ceremony today in memory of those innocent lives that were lost 2 years ago this morning in the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and here at the Pentagon. This ceremony will begin at noon on the West Front of the Capitol.

With regard to next week's schedule, Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour, 2 p.m. for legislative business. At that time we expect to consider several measures under suspension of the rules as well as potential motions to go to conference.

Any votes called on the measures that will be considered Tuesday afternoon will be rolled until after 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the House will meet for legislative business at 10:00 a.m. We expect to consider legislation under suspension of the rules on Wednesday.

Next week, we also plan to consider H.R. 7, the Charitable Giving Act of 2003, and H.R. 1829, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2003.

In addition, I would like to note that we may consider one or more conference reports towards the end of the week. Members should be aware that we will be in session Thursday, possibly late into the evening on Thursday, in order to complete these important pieces of legislation.

Finally, I would like to note that for all Members we do not plan to have votes next Friday, September 19. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me, and I would be happy to answer any questions that he may have.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to yield in order for the gentleman to clarify which appropriation bills we expect to move or he expects to move to go to conference on next Tuesday. We are hearing that the DOD, Military Construction and Legislative branch bills are possible.

Mr. PORTMAN. I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia for yielding further and he is exactly right. The Senate has requested conference on those three appropriations bills, Legislative branch, the DOD, and the Mil Con bill, Military Construction. We expect to move to appoint conferees to one or more of these on Tuesday afternoon. In addition, as the Senate completes additional measures, I would anticipate the possibility of going to conference on additional items as well next week.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will further yield to inquire, is there any other bill possible? What about the

Labor-HHS-Education bill, does the gentleman expect we will move to go to conference on this bill next week?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a possibility. I respond to my friend from Georgia, we do not have a request yet from the Senate on that legislation for conference, but it is possible that we could move the Labor-HHS bill next week as well.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I will further yield to my friend from Ohio. What about the charitable choice tax bill, what type of rule might we expect on this bill? Will amendments or a substitute be allowed?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means will recall, we did have a good debate in the committee on this legislation, and it is a bipartisan piece of legislation, the Charitable Giving Act. I do not know frankly what the Committee on Rules is going to do in terms of the structure of the rule. I am convinced that there will be a good debate on it, and we will have a motion to recommit and possibly a substitute, but I just do not know what the Committee on Rules is going to decide in terms of how the rule is structured.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will not continue to keep my colleague long, but I would like to know, and I will yield, will the FAA conference report be on the floor next week? If so, which day?

Mr. PORTMAN. That is a good question. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the FAA authorization expires at the end of September, as the gentleman knows, and we need to pass this legislation before that time. Otherwise, airports across the country will risk losing their grants to upgrade everything from their instrument landing systems to their runways they need to expand. So we do intend to schedule this important legislation before the end of September so we do not get into that problem, but at this point we are not certain if it will come to the floor next week or the following week.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to yield to inquire, the gentleman suggested that there may be other conference reports. Can we expect to have any other conference report on the floor next week? If so, which conference reports might we have?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding further. It is possible that we would have a couple of other conference reports. Certainly the energy bill is a possibility. There may be good progress, we understand, in that conference. Everybody is eager to be sure, with the blackouts and with our increasing dependence on foreign oil, we move forward a national energy strategy. So that is one possibility.

Another would be the Department of Defense authorization bill, which is also in conference, and as my colleague knows, with these conference reports it is difficult to predict what will happen in conference, but if those conferences

are completed, we would expect to move those conference reports to the floor as soon as possible.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me just ask my friend maybe in closing, why is there a need for us to be here late next Thursday night? The gentleman says as a possibility.

Mr. PORTMAN. Well, it really depends on what kind of progress we make earlier in the week I suppose. We are going to come in, as we said, Tuesday night and start with suspensions and then we start working on some of these other bills, but it looks as though the Charitable Choice Giving Act and the Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act will take quite a bit of time on Wednesday and Thursday. So, again, we are telling Members they should expect to be here on Thursday night probably to vote on the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for being so forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 15, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE REAL STORY ON IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Iraq. I

was privileged to go with the Committee on Government Reform and one can imagine my surprise turning on the evening news the day I got back and watching the national news anchor describe a situation that, quite honestly, I did not recognize and we had just left the country.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not getting the real story on what is happening with our troops in Iraq.

General Conway of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Babylon described to us what he said was a vivid success story. He told us that Iraqis are not concerned that we would stay too long but rather that we would leave too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed by the return to normal life that is present through all areas of Iraq that I visited. The markets are full. In fact, there were traffic jams on the streets of Baghdad. Satellite dishes have sprouted on the roof tops of houses and apartment buildings, probably 25 to 30 percent, and Mr. Speaker, just four or five months ago, possession of a satellite dish was punishable by a year in prison.

The schools finished their school year. They completed the wheat harvest in the area around Tikrit in northern Iraq.

From the standpoint of our military, the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom was prosecuted brilliantly. Mr. Speaker, there is no remaining strategic threat. To be sure, there are still dangers and there are still terrorists, but there is no operational threat in Iraq. Stabilization is now the key goal of our offensive operation. Our troops are charged with finding, containing and killing those who would harm our troops and Iraqi citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw attention to a photograph from the 4th Infantry Division. That is a division from Fort Hood, Texas. This is a picture that I took in one of Saddam's old palaces. Forty-two of the 54 individuals identified as the most wanted of the previous regime have been crossed off this list. The top caption reads, "Saddam's regime is gone and will not be back." At the bottom someone panned, Can you hear me now?

Health care was particularly important to me, bearing in mind that no health care infrastructure improvements have occurred for over 30 years in Iraq. A member of the Civil Affairs Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Keller reported to me that within one of the medical libraries at the medical school he visited no text had copyright later than 1984. Pharmaceuticals that were manufactured in Iraq were useless. They relied upon donations from Kuwait after the combat phase to avert a humanitarian disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in 90 days, schools completed their academic year and conducted testing. Ninety percent of the major cities and towns across Iraq have functioning town councils and city councils, over 500,000 Iraqis are contrib-

uting to their own security. Prisons are on the verge of reopening. The judicial system is up and functioning. Food distribution is not a problem. No humanitarian crisis grew as a result of the combat operations, and although they have a long way to go, the hospitals remain open and functional, and very important to me as a physician, 4.2 million children have been immunized since the first of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this progress within 90 days of the end of the major combat phase, none of these things were in place after 1 year of the conclusion of combat in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a good story to be told to the American people about what has happened in Iraq, and I intend to make that part of my mission.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1304

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SO COMMITTED AND SO RESOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today the United States is a Nation in mourning. And yet, Mr. Speaker, even as we grieve, we fight. Even as our hearts burst with compassion, our souls burn with resolve. Because today the United States is also a Nation at war.

We are at war for the survival of our Nation and the cause of freedom. And we are at war against the evil that planned and executed the attacks we coldly remember today. That evil we fight today is the same evil mankind